

13 MAY 2002

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Natalie E. Holmok

PATENT

SD CO

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of )  
Bhadra, et al. )  
 ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Serial No.: 10/009,915 )  
 ) Group: Not yet assigned  
International App. No.: PCT/US00/11943 )  
 )  
International Filing Date: 11 May 2000 )  
 )  
For: SURGICAL TOOLS )  
 )  
 )  
Attorney Docket No.: )  
22310/04020 )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Asst. Commissioner of Patents  
BOX PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed to fulfill the duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office, as required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Listed on the attached PTO form 1449 is information known to persons substantively involved in the preparation of the application identified above, and that a reasonable Examiner would consider important when deciding whether to allow the application. This document is not to be construed as a representation that a search to locate the most relevant information has been made, nor a representation that more pertinent information does not exist.

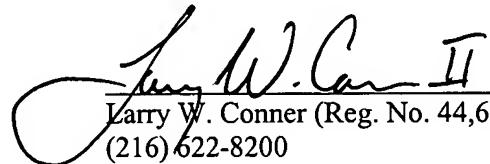
Copies of the information listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 are provided herewith.

The identification of any information herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that such information, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law. The "prior art" status of any information is a matter to be resolved during prosecution.

It is not believed that any fee is required relating to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. If this is not the case, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to Deposit Account No. 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 5-9-02

  
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Larry W. Conner (Reg. No. 44,627)  
(216) 622-8200



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